

**Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7924
Madison WI 53707
Guide Licenses
Requirements and Restrictions**

Guide licenses

No person may engage or be employed for any compensation or reward to guide, direct, or assist any other person in hunting, fishing or trapping unless the person is issued a guide license by the Department subject to Wis. Statutes 29.512. No guide license for hunting or trapping may be issued to or obtained by a person who is not a resident of this state. No guide license may be issued to any person under the age of 18 years. The holder of a guide license shall comply with all of the requirements of this chapter.

Any person violating this section shall forfeit not more than \$100 and upon such conviction the person's guide license is revoked for one year.

Wisconsin Resident Guide License

Fee \$40.00. To guide, direct, or assist other persons in hunting, fishing or trapping in the state of Wisconsin as prescribed by the Wisconsin Statutes and Wisconsin Administrative codes.

- Required to guide, direct or assist other persons in fishing in the State of Wisconsin (for any compensation)
- Must complete guide license application, form 9400-19 and submit with required fee
- Only issued through Bureau of Customer and Outreach Services, Madison
- DNR only licenses guides, we do not guarantee quality or credibility of guide
- There is one guide license – it is not broken down into hunting vs. fishing vs. trapping. One license covers all of these activities
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- For additional information, or to obtain a guide license, please call Customer and Outreach Services at 888-936-7463

Nonresident Guide Licenses

Fee \$100.00. The licensed person is authorized by the license to guide, direct or assist other persons in **fishing only** in the state of Wisconsin, as prescribed by Wisconsin Statutes and Wisconsin Administrative codes.

- Required to guide, direct or assist other persons in fishing in the State of Wisconsin (for any compensation)
- Only allows guiding for fishing – a nonresident cannot be licensed as a guide for hunting or trapping
- Must complete and submit application form 9400-465 along with the required fee
- Issued through the Bureau of Customer and Outreach Services, Madison
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- DNR only licenses guides; we do not guarantee quality or credibility of guide
- For additional information, or to obtain a guide license, please call Customer and Outreach Services at 888-936-7463

All guide licenses run the calendar year from January 1 to December 31. License renewal notifications will be distributed by e-mail to current license holders, resident and nonresident, prior to the first week of December for the upcoming license year.

Outlying Waters Sport Trolling Licenses

No person may be engaged for compensation to guide any person in sport trolling for trout or salmon in and upon the outlying waters unless the person is issued a sport trolling license by the Department subject to

Wis. Statutes s29.024. No sport trolling license may be issued to any person under the age of 18 years. The application shall include the name of the homeport from which the applicant will operate, the applicant's valid U.S. Coast Guard Operator's license number and other information as required by the Department for statistical purposes. The licensee and all persons on board the licensee's boat shall comply with all of the requirements of this chapter. Boats used by the licensee shall meet minimum U.S. Coast Guard and this state's boat licensing and safety requirements. Each licensee shall keep records of the number of each variety of fish taken under his or her sport trolling license and other information the Department shall require, on forms provided by the Department. Forms are due on or before the 10th day of the month for the preceding month. The licensee is responsible for the number of fish taken and shall be held to account.

Wisconsin Sport Trolling License

Fee \$100.00 (resident) or \$400 (nonresident). This named person is authorized by this license to guide, direct or assist other persons in sport trolling for trout or salmon on outlying waters of the State of Wisconsin as prescribed by Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Codes.

- A U.S. Coast Guard Operator's license is required to carry passengers for hire on waters defined as navigable by the federal government. All of Wisconsin's outlying waters are federally navigable.
- A valid U.S. Coast Guard Operator's license number must be provided on the sport trolling license application. For more information, contact U.S. Coast Guard in Toledo, Ohio at 419-729-2034.
- "Outlying waters" are defined in State Statute 29.001(63) as Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, Sawyer's Harbor and the Fox River from its mouth up to the dam at De Pere.
- Required to guide, direct or assist other persons in sport trolling, for trout or salmon in outlying waters of the state of Wisconsin for any compensation.
- A guide license is required to guide for fish species other than trout and salmon on outlying waters (bass or walleye for example). The U.S. Coast Guard license is still required to guide passengers from a vessel on these waters.
- Sport trolling licenses are issued exclusively by: Sturgeon Bay D.N.R. Service Center, 110 S. Neenah Ave., Sturgeon Bay WI 54235. Phone number: 920-746-2866.
- Sport trolling licenses are valid for a calendar year; however, minimal salmon fishing occurs before April.
- Renewal reminders are mailed in January. Unless an earlier start date is requested, licenses are mailed in late March.

NOTICE: In addition to the Wisconsin guide's license, you are required to have:

- 1) A U.S. Coast Guard Operator's license if you operate boats for hire or guide on federal waters, including the Mississippi River, Lake Michigan, Green Bay or Lake Superior. For additional information on how to obtain this license, please contact your nearest U.S. Coast Guard station:
Sturgeon Bay 920-743-3366
Two Rivers 920-793-1305
Sheboygan 920-452-0346
U.S. Coast Guard office, Milwaukee 414-747-7170
- 2) A Special Use Permit is required if you engage in any commercial activity in the Upper Mississippi National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, including guiding activities. For additional information on how to obtain this permit, please call 608-783-8405.